

President of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan

Veenendaal,

Dear President,

I am writing to draw your attention to the prosecution of **Tofiq Yagublu**, a prominent opposition figure, former journalist and outspoken government critic in Azerbaijan. On 14 December 2023, police arrested Yagublu as he was exiting the metro in central Baku. They later claimed to have found 5,000 euros, 2,500 manats, and an unspecified amount of US dollars in his family's home. According to his daughter, the money had been planted by authorities. Yagublu was charged with fraud, forgery of a document and use of counterfeit documents. He has since been in pretrial detention.

I urge you to take necessary steps to ensure Tofiq Yagublu's immediate and unconditional release. I also urge you to end the misuse of the criminal justice system to target criticism and dissent.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

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